



BLUE BEETLE

12¢

NO. 5
NOV.



BB FACES THE
"DESTROYER
of
HEROES"



NOW YOU CAN BUY FORDS, CHEVROLETS, DODGES BELOW WHOLESALE!!

NO GIMMICKS, NO HIDDEN CHARGES . . . THIS IS A STRAIGHT, HONEST OFFER! PROMPT DELIVERY GUARANTEED. RIGHT TO YOUR FRONT DOOR ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES!!



1968
FORD
\$995



1968
DODGE
\$995



1967
FORDS
\$895



1967
Plymouth
\$895



1966
FORDS
\$595



1966
DODGES
\$595

ONLY
\$50
DOWN

AND THE BALANCE ON EASY MONTHLY PAYMENTS! Prices are so low, you can easily get local financing **WITH NO FURTHER DOWN PAYMENT!** Another big special for club members only.

HOW DO YOU GET IN ON THIS FABULOUS DEAL?

All you have to do is join the **VIA DISCOUNT BUYERS CLUB**. As a member we'll show you how you can get the car of your choice* promptly at the lowest price ever as shown above. Pre-Owned Cars.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE CLUB DO?

As a club member, you receive regular mailings with pictures and descriptions of dozens and dozens of name brand items that you can buy direct by mail at fantastic low, low wholesale-discount prices. Name brands such as DUNCAN-HINES, DORMEYER, COLEMAN, GRUEN, PRESTO, INTERNATIONAL SILVER, NUTONE, POLAROID, REMINGTON RAND, SCHICK, SMITH CORONA, SUNBEAM, WATERMAN, WEBCOR, WEAREVER, WESTINGHOUSE AND MANY, MANY MORE...APPLIANCES, TV SETS, TYPEWRITERS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, RADIOS, STEREO SETS, COOKWARE, FISHING SETS, SILVERWARE, HUNTING EQUIPMENT, BOOKS, GLASSWARE, LINENS, DRAPERY, FABRICS, FURNITURE,

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

We're so certain that you'll be absolutely thrilled as a member of the club, that we'll refund your \$3.00 membership fee anytime during the year you belong if you are dissatisfied for any reason whatsoever, with no questions asked. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

TOYS, FUR STOLLS, HOSIERY, CLOTHING, SHOES, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE . . . Why pay regular retail prices? Join the **VIA DISCOUNT BUYERS CLUB** today and start saving big money on merchandise and reconditioned fleet cars.

*Delivery of 1968 cars made on a first come first served basis, during last quarter of model year

VIA DISCOUNT BUYERS CLUB

SEPT. 4-15

133 OLD TARRYTOWN ROAD
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10603

I enclose three dollars as payment in full for a year's membership in the **VIA DISCOUNT BUYERS CLUB**. Please send complete information on the automobiles as described above, immediately by return mail. Also put me on the list to receive the descriptions and photos of name brand merchandise that I can purchase at wholesale and discount prices by mail. I understand that I am not obligated to buy anything and that I will receive a full refund of my \$3.00 membership fee at anytime, with no questions asked.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

the BLUE BEETLE

SCRIPT BY: D.C. GLANZMAN

PENCILLED BY: STEVE DITKO

INKED BY: STEVE DITKO

LETTERED BY: A. MACHINE

FACES THE DESTROYER OF HEROES

BORIS EBAR,
ART CRITIC
LECTURES AT
A MID-CITY
MUSEUM...

HERE IS WHAT I CALL 'OUR MAN'! THIS ANONYMOUS
WORK IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF ART THAT REVEALS
THE TRUE SPIRIT OF MAN...MAN AS HE REALLY IS.
THE ENTIRE FORM IS NONDESCRIPT...LACKING THE US-
UAL, GROTESQUE, HEROIC POSE. THE MISSING EYES, A
PROFOUNDLY HUMAN TOUCH WITH WHICH ALL MAN MAY
IDENTIFY AND WHICH DRAMATIZES MAN'S INEVITABLE
WEAKNESSES. NOTICE PLEASE, THE TOUCH OF PURE
GENIUS...THE DELIBERATE LACK OF HEART! THE
FACULTY THAT MAN SHOULD OBEY! THE CLOSED HANDS,
SYMBOLIZING MAN'S INABILITY TO SOLVE OR CONTROL
THE ILLUSION WE CALL EXISTENCE. YES, THIS IS
TRUE MAN...THIS IS HOW WE REALLY ARE...NO ONE
CAN IMPROVE ON IT...OR ESCAPE IT! WE CAN ONLY
ACCEPT...OUR MAN!

TED, EVEN IF HE
MEANS IT AS A
JOKE, IT'S A DIS-
GUSTING APPRAISAL
OF MAN!

HE HEARS IT,
TRACEY...AND HE
AND A LOT OF
OTHERS REALLY
BELIEVE IT!



AM, THE FAMOUS VIC SAGE,
SURELY YOU SHARE MY ES-
THETIC BELIEFS, THE
IRREFUTABLE LOGIC THAT

I'LL SPEAK FOR MYSELF!
YOUR VIEWS AND THAT THING
BELONG ON A JUNK HEAP!
BUT IT'S PERFECT FOR ALL
OF YOU...



HOW DARE HE
ATTACK EBAR
OR A TRUE
WORK OF ART!

...PERFECT FOR SELF-
ADMITTED NOthings WHO
HAVE NOWHERE TO GO IN
THEIR WORLD OF NOTHING!

COME ON,
TRACEY! WE BE-
LONG IN HIS
COMPANY!



WHAT A DIFFERENCE!
THE MEN WHO CREATED
THESE CERTAINLY
THOUGHT WELL OF MAN
AND HIS WORLD!

AND OF THEMSELVES, TRACEY!
THEY SPENT THEMSELVES ON WHAT
THEY CONSIDERED WORTHY OF
THEIR TIME AND ABILITIES!



AAACK! THIS
TRASH IS
FOR FAIRY
TALES!

NOW I KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO SEE
A PLAGUE COMING
ON!



THIS PRETTY STUFF
GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT
ME DOWN!

MY, MY, IT'S SO UNFAIR,
ISN'T IT! YOU CAN'T HAVE
WHAT YOU WANT AND WISHING
FOR IT SHOULD BE ALL THE EF-
FORT YOU NEED TO GET ANY-
THING.



"THE UNCONQUERED," I
HATE THAT STATUE! I
HATE HEROES. I'LL...
I'LL SMASH IT!!

DON'T YOU DARE LAY A HAND
ON THAT STATUE!



HE CAN'T DO THAT TO HUGO! LET'S GET HIM! HE'S ONLY ONE GUY!

...AND I MAKE TWO!

...THREE! I'M NOT GOING TO STAY OUT OF THIS.

AHN, LET THEM GO!
 THEY'LL BE YELLIN'
 FOR THE COPS! COME
 ON, THIS JOINT
 MAKES ME ITCH!

THANKS FOR
 STANDING WITH
 ME!

I THANK YOU! YOU
 SAVED A FINE
 PIECE OF ART!

SAGE, YOU OWE
ME AN APOLOGY!
I'M A RECOG-
NIZED ART CRIT-
IC AND YOU EM-
BARRASSED ME...
YOU MADE ME
APPEAR LIKE A
FOOL!

I OWE YOU NOTH-
ING! NOW YOU
FEEL ABOUT YOUR
OWN EVALUATION
OF ART IS YOUR
BUSINESS! DON'T
TRY TO USE ME
TO FOSTER YOUR
OPINIONS!



TED, WHY ARE YOU STARING AT "THE UNCONQUERED"?

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT! IT SIGNIFIES MORE TO ME THAN JUST A FINE FIGURE... SOMETHING DEEPER...

IT'S PROOF THAT MAN IS NOT HELP-
LESS! MAN CAN SET A GOAL AND A-
CHIEVE IT. AS THE SCULPTOR DID
WITH HIS STATUE, SO CAN ANYONE
ELSE, BUT MAN HAS TO MOTIVATE
HIMSELF!

A stylized illustration featuring three characters. On the left, a large, muscular man with a determined expression is shown in profile, looking towards the right. Behind him, a woman with dark hair and a yellow top looks forward. To her right, a man in a dark suit and red tie also looks forward. The background is a solid light blue. The entire scene is framed by a thick black border.

WE ARE ALL LIKE THIS STATUE! MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE POWER TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING! MAN IS A HELPLESS SPECK IN AN UNKNOWNABLE UNIVERSE RULED BY STRANGE FORCES THAT CONTROL MAN'S WILL AND DESTINY! BY HIMSELF, MAN IS NOTHING AND CAN DO NOTHING!



MAN CAN'T BE GREAT OR HEROIC! ANYTHING THAT SHOWS HIM BEING BETTER THAN HE REALLY IS... IS EVIL! IT PRESENTS HIM WITH A DREAM HE CAN NEVER EXPERIENCE!



EVERYTHING THAT DOESN'T SHOW MAN AS HE TRULY IS, AS 'OUR MAN' HAS REVEALED, SHOULD BE DESTROYED! IF MAN SEES NO ILLUSIONS, NOTHING THAT HE CANNOT HAVE, HE WILL HAVE NO FRUSTRATIONS!



MAN WILL ONLY BE HAPPY WHEN HE RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS THE FACT THAT HE IS A HELPLESS, MEANINGLESS SPECK IN A NEVER-ENDING UNIVERSE!



SOMEONE SHOULD DESTROY ALL THAT HEROIC EVIL TO RID IT FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN FOREVER! THEN THE WORKS OF TRUE ART LIKE MY SCULPTURES WILL ALLOW MAN TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE HIS TRUE NATURE.



I... I FEEL IT IN ME... THE COMMAND! I... I MUST BE THE ONE WHO WILL SHOW MAN THE WAY! I WILL SMASH THOSE HEROIC IDOLS!

...DRESSED AS 'OUR MAN', I WILL FREE MANKIND OF THE DEMONS THAT POSSESS HIS HEART AND CORRUPT HIS SOUL!



ONCE RID OF HIS HEROIC SYMBOLS, NO MAN WILL EVER FEEL LESS WORTHY OF OTHERS... FOR THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO LOOK UP TO... AND NO MAN WILL HAVE TO STRUGGLE ENDLESSLY AND USELESSLY TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THE UNATTAINABLE! HE WILL FIND TRUE HAPPINESS AND PEACE WITH HIMSELF!



AS
TIME
PASSES
...

THIS WILL BE
THE LAST NIGHT
ON GUARO,
TRACEY, THE
EXHIBIT MOVES
TOMORROW!



EVER SINCE THAT RUN IN
OVER THE STATUE, I'VE
BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON
THE MUSEUM.



I MAY BE OVERLY CON-
CERNED, BUT IF ANYTHING
HAPPENED TO THAT ART,
ESPECIALLY "THE UNCON-
QUERED"...



WELL, IT'S WORTH THE
LOSS OF SLEEP TO BE CER-
TAIN NOTHING DOES
HAPPEN!



I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST
THOSE TYPES FROM TRYING
AGAIN TO WRECK IT...TO
THEM...NOTHING HAS ANY
VALUE...NOT EVEN THEM-
SELVES!



OKAY, BUG! UP
YOU GO, OUT
OF SIGHT!



THAT WILL DO IT! THIS
IS THE MOST REWARDING
VIGIL ANYONE EVER HAD!



I MAY HAVE CONVINCED MY-
SELF OF THE POSSIBILITY
OF TROUBLE JUST SO I
COULD KEEP SEEING "THE
UNCONQUERED"!



WHIA...IT'S THE "OUR MAN"
STATUE...OR SOMEONE
DRESSED UP LIKE IT!



THE BLUE BEETLE! HE SAW
ME...BUT HE'S ONE OF
THEM!

HE DARES TO SET HIM-
SELF UP AS A GOD! HE
IS WORSE THAN HEROIC
ART...HE'S TRYING TO
BE A HERO...TO BE
BETTER THAN EVERYONE
ELSE!



WHAT'S THE GAG, FELLA?...WHO?... I SEE, THE JOKE'S ON ME!

I'LL DESTROY HIS POSE! HE'LL SEE HE'S NO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE!



OOH! ARMOR PLATED, HUH! SO I CAN'T SLUG IT OUT WITH YOU!

HE CAN'T HURT ME, AND HE KNOWS IT!



HE'LL HAVE TO QUIT, TO GIVE UP AND I'LL EXPOSE HIS HEROIC POSE!

THIS GUY'S STRONG AS A BULL AND FAST...BUT HE'S WILD!



I'LL KEEP PRESSING HIM ...TRY TO SET HIM UP SO I CAN KNOCK HIM OFF BALANCE!

WHY DOES HE KEEP FIGHTING ME! HE SHOULD RUN! HE CAN'T WIN!

I HATE TO TELL YOU YOUR BUSINESS BUT YOU'RE MISSING A LOT,



DOFF!...CAN'T DUCK THEM ALL...BUT THIS ONE'S AT THE WRONG TIME AND PLACE!

HIS EVIL HEROICS KEEP HIM TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!



THE FOOL STILL TRIES TO OVERCOME HIS FATE, TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE LAWS OF DESTINY!

I'LL MAKE A GRAB FOR HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO BREAK MY HOLD!



THE FORCES THAT RULE HAVE DECIDED YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN INSPIRE ANYONE TO POISON THEIR HEARTS.



A GUARD IS INVESTIGATING THE NOISE! WHEN HE FINDS THE EX-HERO'S BODY, THE POLICE WILL BE ALL OVER THE PLACE! I MUST LEAVE!



IT'S A GOOD THING
I SAW THIS IN TIME!



I'VE GOT THE MOMENTUM SO WHILE
I'M IN THE SWING OF THINGS... I
MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
IT...



...TO LET IT LIFT ME BACK UP! THE
GUARD OVER THERE MUST HAVE SCARED
YOUR MAN AWAY!



I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO SPOT HIM
FROM THE BUG!



LET'S GO, BUG! I WANT YOU
TO KNOW WHO'S INSIDE
THAT WALKING DISTOR-
TION OF A MAN!

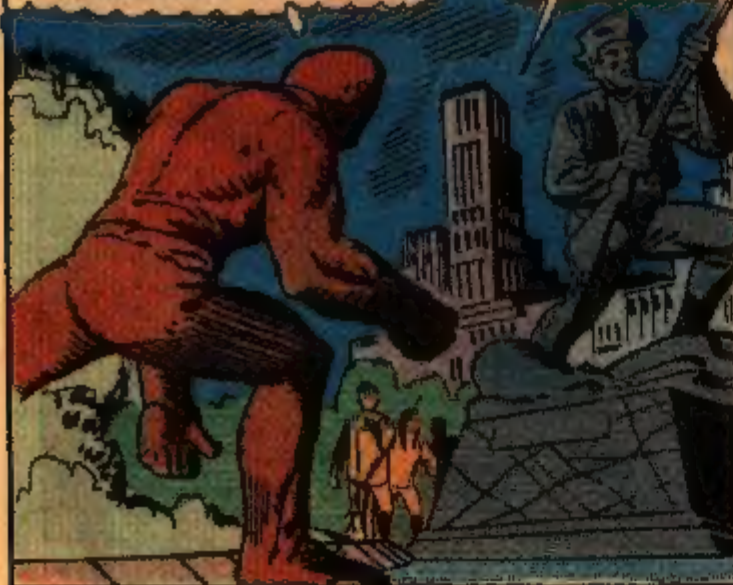


IF THE MIND
BEHIND IT IS
AS TWISTED
AS THE
STATUE IT
REPRESENTS,
IT CAME TO
DESTROY THE
ART I WAS
WATCHING!



AND AT A NEARBY PARK!

THAT STATUE... IT'S ONE OF THE
HEROES OF HUB CITY! I'VE AL-
WAYS HATED IT!



HEY, LOOK!
IT'S "OUR MAN"!

LOOK AT THAT!
GO, MAN, GO!
SMASH IT, MAN,
DOWN WITH PHON-
EY TRADITIONS!
FREE US, MAN!

WE'LL
MAKE
OUR OWN
RULES!



WE DON'T
NEED ANY
PAST! IT'S
HERE AND
NOW, MAN!

GO
TO
IT!

WE'RE WITH YOU, MAN!
DOWN WITH THE CHAINS OF
CONVENTIONS...OF AUTHOR-
ITY! MAN MUST LIVE
AS HE FEELS! HA-HA!

**SMASH
AWAY!**



WE'RE WITH YOU,
MAN!

YIPPE

GO, MAN, GO!
**DON'T
EVER
STOP!**

LOOK OUT,
LADY!

WHY ARE THEY DOING
THAT? WHAT'S GOT INTO
THEM!



WHEN THE BUG'S ANTENNA
PICKED UP THE COMMOTION, I
KNEW WHO HAD TO BE THE
CAUSE OF IT!



WHAT IS THAT
CREEPY BUG
BUTTING IN
FOR AND SPOIL-
ING OUR FUN!
HEY! HE IS
ATTACKING
"OUR MAN!"

YOU SEEM TO GET YOUR KICKS OUT OF
DESTROYING. I GET MINE FROM KICKING
THE DE-
STROYERS.

IT CAN'T BE! I
DEFEATED HIM!
WHY? HOW COULD
HE COME BACK
AFTER ME?

**BEAT
IT, BUG!**



STOP THAT! YOU HAVE NO
RIGHT TO PICK ON "OUR
MAN!" YOU BRUTE!
SAVAGE!

WHAT MYSTIC POW-
ERS DOES THE BLUE
BEETLE POSSESS?



COME ON, WE'LL TEACH
THAT BUG SOME RESPECT
FOR OTHERS!

**SMASH THAT
INSECT! HELP
OUR MAN!"**



HERE'S A WHOLE TREASURE CHEST OF FUN



THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks behind doors everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher friends family. Free book on 'How to Become a Ventriloquist.' No. 137 \$2.50



MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck with instructions for 10 terrific tricks. No. 133 \$1.00

SURPRISE PACKAGE



Are you going to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth. No. 87a Only 50c

JACK POT BANK

Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the hand. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes. No. 2040 1.00



FIRES WITH LOUD BANG! Metal Model of 24 Pound NAVAL CANNON



Actual by Shouts Only \$2.98 Use for Celebrations Starting Races. Dark Deck of an Authentic Detailed reproduction of 18th Century 24 Pound Naval Cannon from the days of wooden ships and iron men. Shoots 4 Shot Bunches with 1 Loud Bang. Will start it and scare your friends. Reels and 1270 10 gun never back guarantee. Not including Car. \$2.98 each all rounds. Metal ammunition 5. No. 97



BOOMERANG

Something new in target throwing in case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo you're set to fire again. More fun than a barrel of monkeys. No. 141 75c



SMOKE SOME

Light one and watch the explosion of black white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect. No. 971 20c



SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex with 21 all hands. For the executive that would like to change his appearance. \$2.50 \$1.00



JOY BUZZER

Most popular role novelty in years. Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking" sensation. Absolutely harmless. No. 236 \$1.00

20 COURSE HOME STUDY PROGRAM KARATE JIU JUDO BOXING, SAVATE, Isometric Muscle Building, Endurance, Stunts.

Here is what you get! 20 best KARATE Blows and Chops SAVATE French foot fighting Nerve center anatomy chart JUDO throws Jiu Jitsu holds Isometric muscle building course Endurance Exercises and lots more. Only \$1.00

FREE Karate Practice Dummy and Nerve Center Chart Item No. 73 2.50



EXHAUST WHISTLE

Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car then watch him when he starts the engine. The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or far apart. While you roar with laughter. No. F1B2 50c

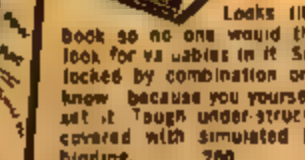


TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. No. 57c Only 25c

SECRET BOOK SAFE

With combination lock only you can open.



Looks like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. Securely locked by combination only you know because you yourself have set it. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding. 70c \$1

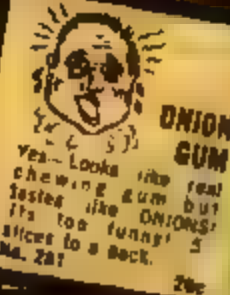


SECRET SPY SCOPE

Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket—4 Power Magnifier 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope. Item No. F88 \$1.39

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place on a chair under a cushion then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber and inflatable. A scream. No. 247 50c



UNION GUM

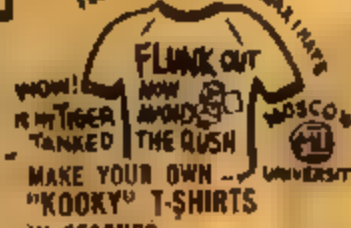
Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack. No. 247 20c



X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine you put on the X-Ray Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend's that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. No. F17 \$1.00



FLUNK OUT

MAKE YOUR OWN "KOOKY" T-SHIRTS IN SECONDS

All you do is lay the transfer on press down with a hot iron and presto! you'll have a crowd stopping "zany" shirt in colors, too. Each transfer will transform several shirts. Can be washed of course. Item No. 338 Any two transfers \$1.00. All 4 transfers \$1.75

Honor House Prod. Corp. Dept. 278GK-42 Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days. Free trial for full refund of purchase price.

Item	Name of Item	How Many	Total Price

☐ I enclose in full payment. Same guarantee.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

Name _____ Zip _____
Address _____

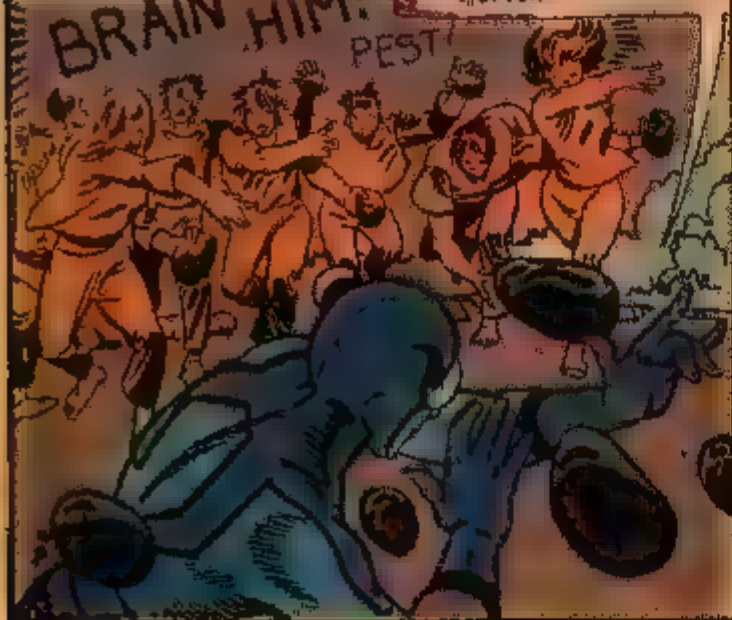
N.Y. State residents please add 2% sales tax. Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00. Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

LET THE BRUTE HAVE IT! CLOBBER HIM!

LEAVE 'OUR MAN' ALONE!

NOW, THERE'S A FRIGHTENING EXAMPLE OF PURE EMOTIONALLY DRIVEN ACTION

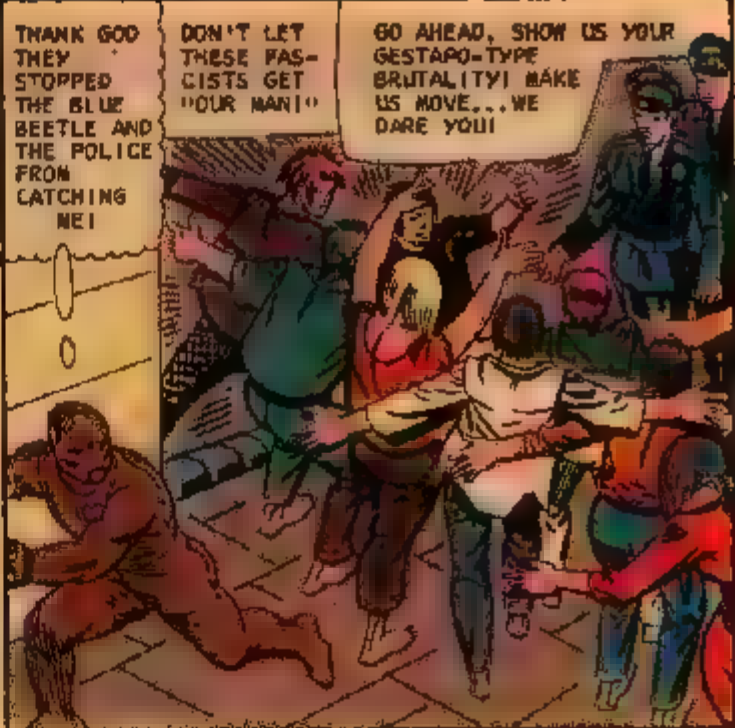
BRAIN HIM! PEST!



THANK GOD THEY STOPPED THE BLUE BEETLE AND THE POLICE FROM CATCHING ME!

DON'T LET THESE FASCISTS GET 'OUR MAN'!

GO AHEAD, SHOW US YOUR GESTAPO-TYPE BRUTALITY! MAKE US MOVE... WE DARE YOU!



THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF SOCIETY'S SELF-STYLED 'FINEST', I LOST 'OUR MAN'!



NEXT DAY AT A HUB CITY TV STATION.

A NEW CHAMPION, 'OUR MAN' HAS ARISEN FOR SOME AND BORIS EBAR WILL EXPLAIN ITS DEEPER MEANING. MR. EBAR ALSO PROMISES TO REPLACE THE DESTROYED PARK STATUE WITH ONE THAT DOESN'T SIGNIFY A SELF GLORIFYING ACT OR A SO-CALLED HEROIC DEED! MR. EBAR!

'OUR MAN' IS NOT A SYMBOL... 'OUR MAN' IS THE REAL MAN... NOT MAN'S PRETENSES OR FANTASIES. 'OUR MAN' IS WHAT EVERY MAN IS. THAT IS WHY WE FEEL AND IDENTIFY WITH HIM. WHY HE IS BECOMING SO POPULAR. HE IS US! A MAN FOR EVERYONE. NOT A HERO FOR A FEW!



HEROES ARE OUTDATED! AN INSULT TO THE AVERAGE MAN! IT IS A VICIOUS CLASS DISTINCTION THAT SEEKS TO SET ONE UP ABOVE THE OTHERS. MAN IS NOT PERFECT, HE CAN NEVER BE. HEROES ASSUME THE PRETENSE OF PERFECTION! BUT 'OUR MAN' SHOWS HIS IMPERFECTION, THAT IS TRUE HEROISM! TO BE AWARE OF FAULTS... TO ACCEPT THEM WITHOUT TRYING TO CHANGE THE UNCHANGEABLE! 'OUR MAN' SHOWS US WHAT WE ARE. WE CANNOT BE OTHERWISE. HAPPINESS COMES TO THOSE WHO ACCEPT THIS TRUTH! WE WILL SOON HAVE A SPECIAL EXHIBIT SO ALL CAN SEE 'OUR MAN'!



VIC, YOU MUST TELEVISIONIZE EBAR'S EXHIBIT! YOU'LL GIVE IT AN INTER CITY FLAVOR.

SORRY, GENTLEMEN. THAT STATUE IS TRASH TO ME.

SO WHAT? LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! EBAR HAS SOCIETY CONNECTIONS. YOU'D BE A FOOL TO TURN DOWN THIS EXPOSURE, THE PRESTIGE OF BEING 'IN' ON THIS HOT FAD!



AT LAST WE HAVE PROOF WE ARE THE TRUE WAY OF LIFE. 'OUR MAN'S' STATUE, BEAR'S SPEECH, EVERYONE'S SAYING SO, EXCEPT THOSE IDIOTS WHO DON'T REALIZE A MAN CAN FEEL BETTER THAN HE CAN THINK!

WE'RE GOING TO COMMUNICATE OUR SPIRIT TO 'OUR MAN' TO GIVE HIM STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THE DISBELIEVERS!

...AND I AM MERELY AN INSTRUMENT OF SOME UNKNOWN FORCE, I CANNOT QUESTION IT... I CAN ONLY OBEY ITS COMMANDS.



GET YOUR HEART AND IDENTIFY WITH 'OUR MAN!' SHOW YOU BELIEVE IN HIM!

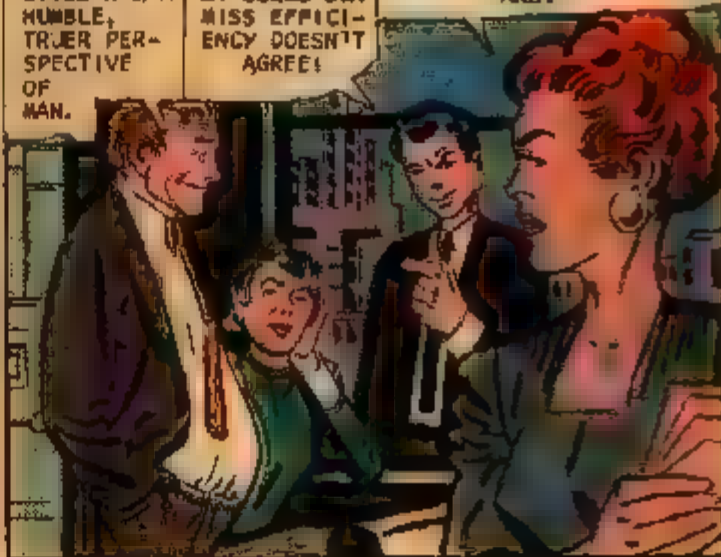
YEAH, AND IT ALSO SHOWS WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE, KATE!



IT IS BETTER FOR MAN TO IDENTIFY WITH WEAKNESS. IT GIVES HIM A HUMBLE, TRUER PERSPECTIVE OF MAN.

YEAH, THIS RAT RACE OF ALWAYS PROVING YOURSELF IS INSANE! IT SEEMS OUR MISS EFFICIENCY DOESN'T AGREE!

YOU WANT TO PULL A VICIOUS SWITCH! YOU SNEAK THE BEST AS UNWORTHY SO YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE TO REMAIN AS LOUSY AS YOU ARE!



...AND NO ONE WILL EVER BE PERFECT SO WHY KNOCK YOURSELF OUT TRYING, WHY KID YOURSELF? WE ARE ALL LIKE 'OUR MAN'!

I SEE THE DOCTORS THAT TREAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY... THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE YOUR DRUGS... BUILD YOUR CARS... ANYONE WHO'S ACTION AFFECTS THE LIVES OF OTHERS SHOULD TRY TO DO THEIR BEST. WHY BOTHER, HUH!



YA, BOY. I CAN IDENTIFY WITH 'OUR MAN' BUT I CAN'T WITH THOSE BRAINY GUYS WHO THINK THEY KNOW IT ALL.

THE ONLY GOOD MAN IS ONE WHO HAS FAULTS, LIKE 'OUR MAN.' ANY PERSON WITHOUT FAULTS WOULD BE A DISGUSTING SPECTACLE!

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT STUPID SALES CLERKS, IDIOTIC DRIVERS AND DUMB POLITICIANS? YOU'RE KNOCKING YOUR GOOD MAN'S VIRTUES!

YEAH, I DID A GUY THAT MAKES MISTAKES... YOU KNOW HE'S HUMAN!

YOU'LL BE A SUPER HERO WITH NO LEGS BUT I'LL GIVE YOU SUPER POWERS SO YOU WON'T NEED THEM AND EVERYONE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR YOU!



THAT'S STUPID! WHY WRECK ME IF YOU CAN GIVE ME POWERS!

TED, WHEN IS SOMEONE GOING TO ANSWER HIM PROPERLY?

THE BEST WAY WOULD BE TO PRESENT A BETTER EXAMPLE! I'VE GOT AN IDEA, COVER FOR ME!



WE'VE CONSIDERED THE SAME IDEA, TED. WE HAVE THE ART FOR AN EXHIBIT BUT WE NEED SOMEONE TO PROMOTE IT!

VIC SAGE WOULD BE PERFECT BUT I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S STILL IN THE CITY!



...AND THAT'S IT, SAGE. OUR OWN EXHIBIT, BUT IF YOU'RE LEAVING TODAY WE'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMEONE ELSE...

I'LL DO IT! JUST LET ME CALL MY STAFF! THEY'LL PINCH HIT FOR ME IN CROWN CITY!



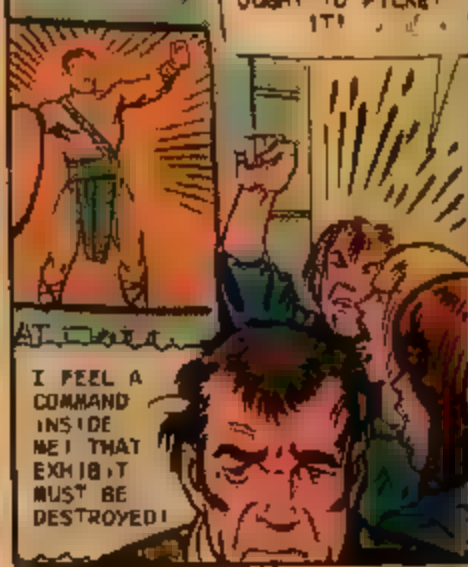
SAGE, IT'S UNFAIR! IF YOU GO THROUGH WITH THAT COMPETING EXHIBIT, WE'LL SEE THAT YOU LOSE YOUR SPONSORS HERE AND YOUR TV OUTLET!

I DON'T INSIST OR CARE WHAT YOU GENTLEMEN SPONSOR OR EXHIBIT, SO DON'T TELL ME WHAT I MUST DO.



EXHIBIT MAN

IT'S UNAMERICAN, HOLDING THAT EXHIBIT. OURS SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE. WE OUGHT TO PICKET IT!



I FEEL A COMMAND INSIDE ME! THAT EXHIBIT MUST BE DESTROYED!

ONCE MORE THE FORCES OF DESTINY MOVE ME! THAT EXHIBIT WILL HAVE THE BEST EXAMPLES OF HEROIC ART ...ONCE DESTROYED...THEY'LL NEVER BE REPLACED...THEIR INSPIRATION ENDED!



I FEEL UNWORTHY OF BEING CHOSEN FOR SUCH A TASK, BUT NOW CAN A MERE MAN QUESTION THE MYSTIC FORCES THAT MOVE HIM! I FEEL ITS PRESENCE...THAT PROVES ITS EXISTENCE AND POWER! ALL HAS BEEN DECIDED



HEY! THAT'S 'OUR MAN'! WE GOT TO SPREAD THE WORD

I CAN ONLY BELIEVE, THAT HEROIC ART IS EVIL! I CAN ONLY OBEY...I WILL DESTROY IT!



HEY, EVERYONE! 'OUR MAN' IS GOING TO SMASH THAT HERO EXHIBIT!

OH, MR. EBAR, I SEE IT NOW! TO TAKE PRIDE IN ONE'S SHORTCOMINGS TO BE TRULY HUMAN!



IT'S THAT MONSTER! COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

I'LL HANDLE HIM. ROLL UP THE GUARDS, THEY'RE INVESTIGATING A BOMB SCARE!



THE FOOL! I'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO DESTROY THAT EVIL AND THIS ONE THING HE CAN STOP THE POWERS OF DESTINY!

I HAVE TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THAT ART AT ALL COSTS



WHY DOES HE INSIST ON FIGHTING... HE CAN'T HURT OR STOP ME!

IF I CAN KNOCK HIM OFF BALANCE I CAN KEEP HIM DOWN!

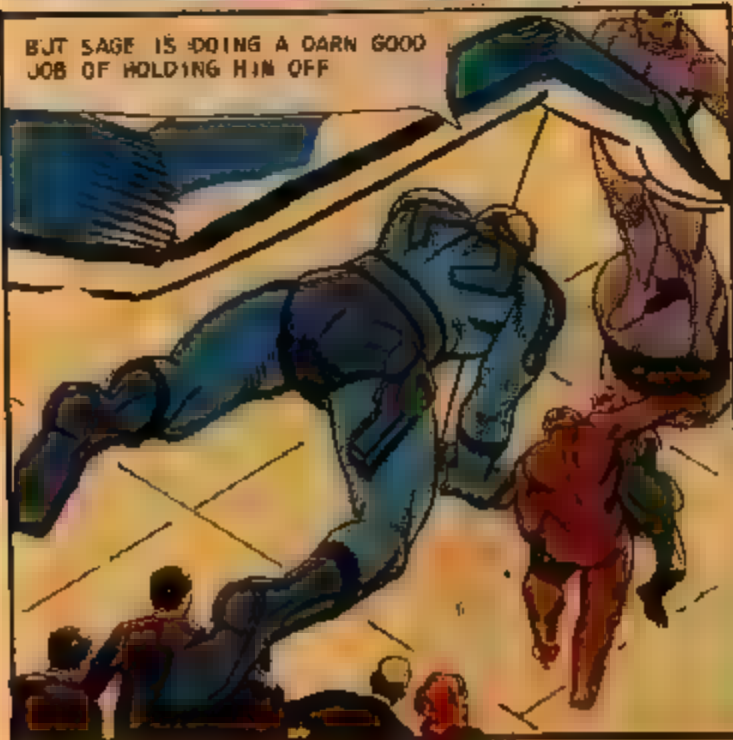


THOSE CURSED STATUES BREED HEROICS... HE'S POSSESSED BY THEM AND THEIR EVIL SPELL!



I'M LATE, BUT I HAD TO STAY FAR OUT OF SIGHT TO AVOID BEING SPOTTED!

BUT SAGE IS DOING A DARN GOOD JOB OF HOLDING HIM OFF



I DON'T WANT TO TAKE HIM ON DOWN HERE AND RISK DAMAGING THAT ART, SO UP AND AWAY WE GO!

WHAT! HOW DOES THE BEETLE ALWAYS KNOW WHERE AND WHEN I'LL STRIKE??

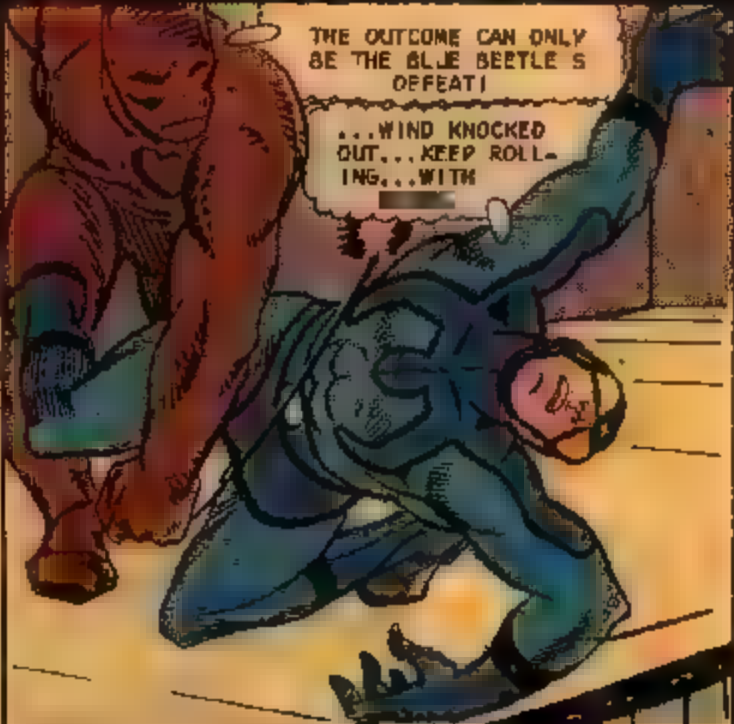
NOW THERE'S A NEAT WAY OF REMOVING A MENACE!





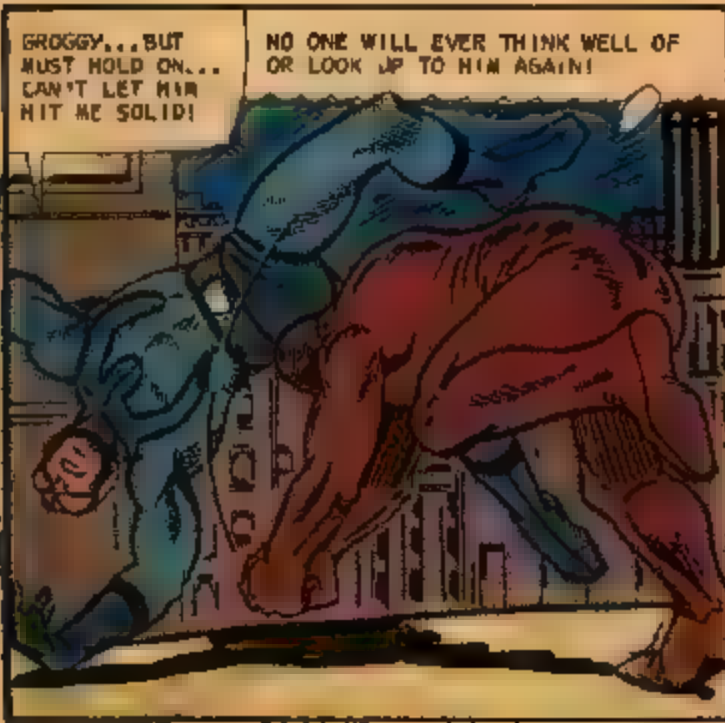
I'LL JUST
DUMP HIM OFF
AT THE POL-
ICE STA...
OOOF!

I HAVE TO DESTROY
THIS EVIL HERO
ONCE AND FOR ALL!
THE FORCES GUID-
ING ME MUST HAVE
ARRANGED THIS!



THE OUTCOME CAN ONLY
BE THE BLUE BEETLE'S
OFEAT!

...WIND KNOCKED
OUT...KEEP ROLL-
ING...WITH

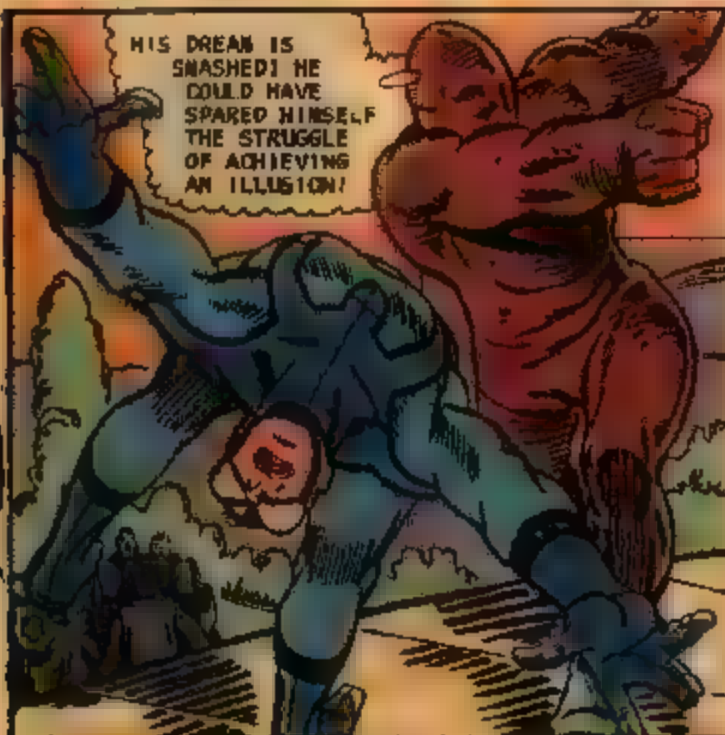


GROGGY...BUT
MUST HOLD ON...
CAN'T LET HIM
HIT ME SOLID!

NO ONE WILL EVER THINK WELL OF
OR LOOK UP TO HIM AGAIN!



WHY DOESN'T HE STAY
DOWN? HOW CAN HE
KEEP RESISTING?
HE'S BEATEN!
FINISHED! EVEN
HE MUST
REALIZE
THAT BY
NOW!



HIS DREAM IS
SMASHED! HE
COULD HAVE
SPARED HIMSELF
THE STRUGGLE
OF ACHIEVING
AN ILLUSION!



THAT IS IT!
SMASH THAT
BUG!

MAKE THAT
HERO HOLLER
QUITS!

DON'T GIVE UP ON THE
BLUE BEETLE YET! THE
FIGHT'S NOT OVER

STOMP
HIM!
YAAA!

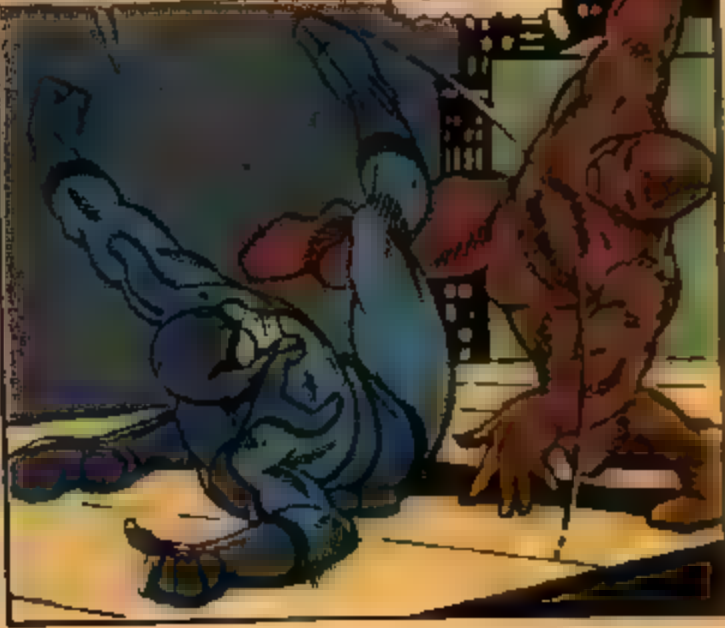
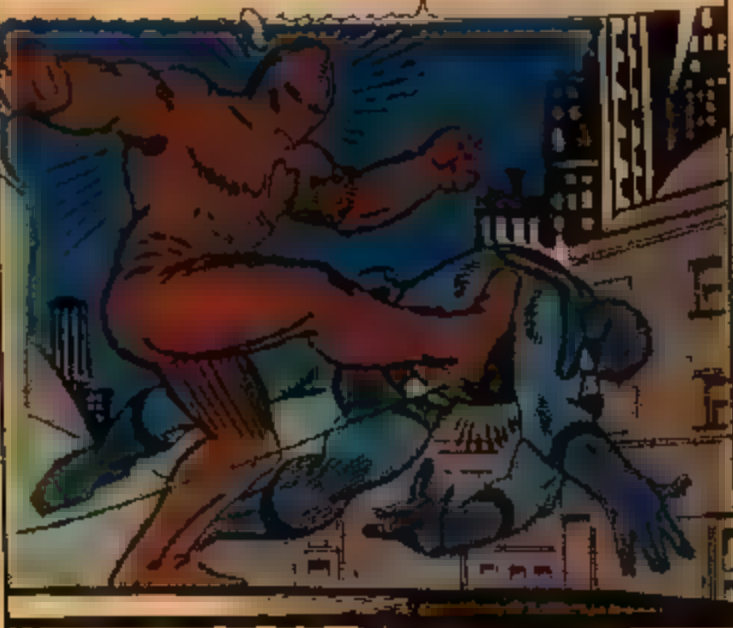
CRIPPLE
THE BUG!

CURSE YOU! STAY DOWN! YOU'RE
BEAT! GIVE UP! YOU MUST GIVE
UP!! YOU MUST!

DOOF! AHI MY HEAD'S
CLEARED ENOUGH FOR
ME TO STRIKE BACK!

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I
BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTICI-
PANT IN THIS CONTEST!

WHAT HE
...HE'S
FIGHTING
BACK!



HOW IS IT
POSSIBLE??

SINCE SLUG-
GING YOU IS
NO GOOD...
I'LL TRY
SOMETHING
ELSE!

HE'S NOT HUMAN! NO
MERE MAN COULD NOT
DO WHAT HE DOES!

I'LL JUST
KEEP HIM
OFF HIS
STRIDE!

UNLESS HE HAS SOME
KIND OF MAGICAL
POWER THAT HE CALLS
UPON TO HELP HIM.

NOW IT'S
TIME TO
SHAKE HIM
UP!



SUPERNATURAL
POWERS THAT I
COULD NOT EVEN
DREAM OF.

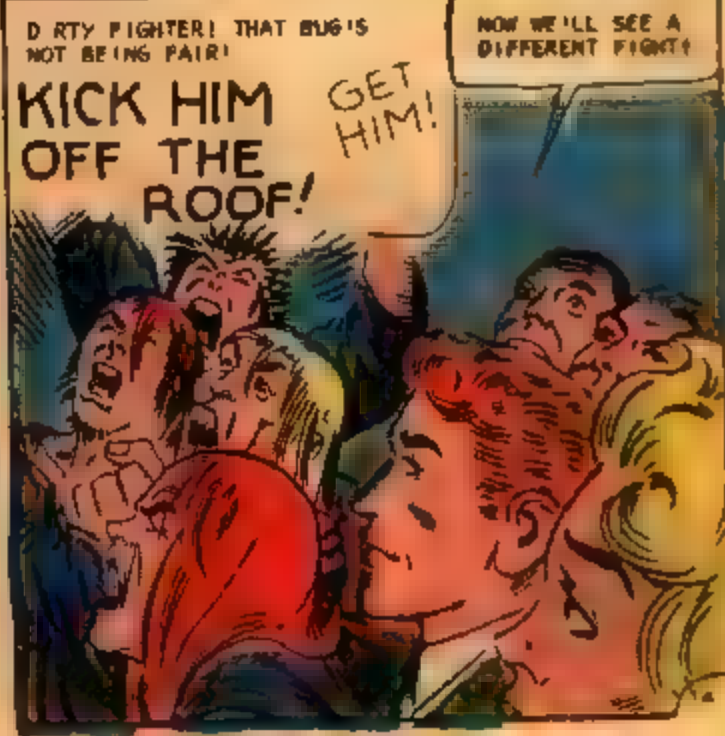
TH'S WILL GIVE
YOU A NEW
PO NT OF
VIEW!

D RTY FIGHTER! THAT BUG'S
NOT BEING PAIR!

NOW WE'LL SEE A
DIFFERENT FIGHT!

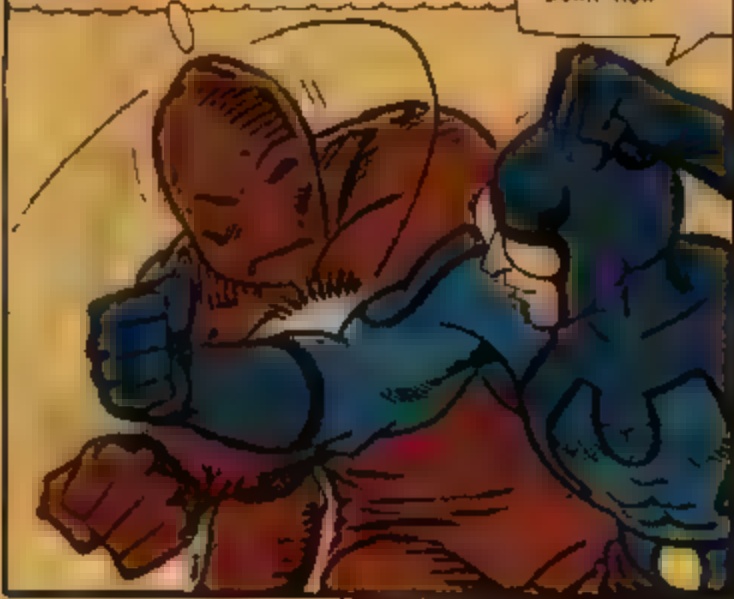
KICK HIM
OFF THE
ROOF!

GET
HIM!



THE FORCES THAT GUIDED ME MUST HAVE
ABANDONED ME! I NO LONGER FEEL MY
MASTERY OVER THIS EVIL! HELP ME...
I NEED YOU!

HE'S STILL
STRONG AS
EVER, BUT I
CAN WEAR HIM
DOWN NOW!



I HAVE BEEN HEARD. THEY AID
ME AGAIN. NOW I WILL
DESTROY HIM!

DOF! I CAN'T AVOID
ALL HIS BLOWS, BUT
I'M MORE PREPARED
FOR THEM!



THIS THEN, IS THE END OF THE ONE
WHO ASPIRES TO BE A HERO...

JUST A GLANCING
BLOW AND HE'S
IN POSITION!



NO! NO! HE WON'T
STAY DEFEATED!
HIS POWERS ARE
TOO GREAT!



I'M GETTING SO TIRED, WEAK! HE
WON'T LET ME REST! HE KEEPS COMING
AT ME... HE WON'T LET UP...

HE'S SLOWING
DOWN! NOW I
HAVE TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
EVERY OPENING
HE GIVES ME!



'OUR MAN' NEEDS HELP! THAT
BLUE BEETLE IS TRYING TO PUT
SOMETHING OVER ON HIM. WE GOT
TO STOP THAT BUG! NOW I GOT
AN IDEA.

YOU CAN COUNT ON
US. WHAT DO YOU
WANT US TO DO?



THAT'S IT...
KEEP PUMP-
ING!

HE'S PLAYING WITH
ME!...HE MUST HAVE
BEEN DOING IT ALL
ALONG!



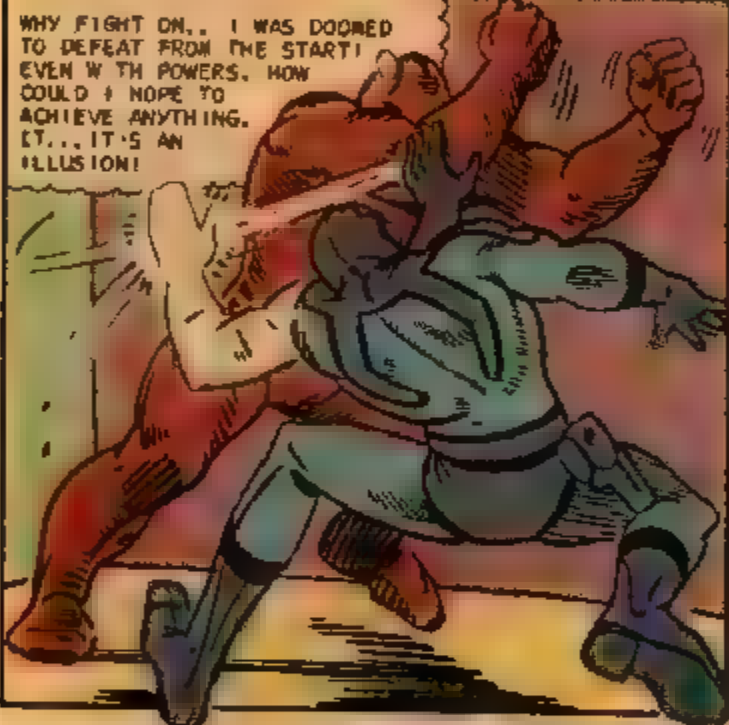
I'M SO WEAK, THE FORCES THAT
ONCE GUIDED ME HAVE NOW DESERTED
ME! I...I HAVE PROVEN UNWORTHY
OF THEM! THIS IS MY PUNISHMENT!



I AM NOW A MERE MAN AGAINST ONE
WHO TRULY HAS SUPERNATURAL POWERS.
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE FOR ANYTHING



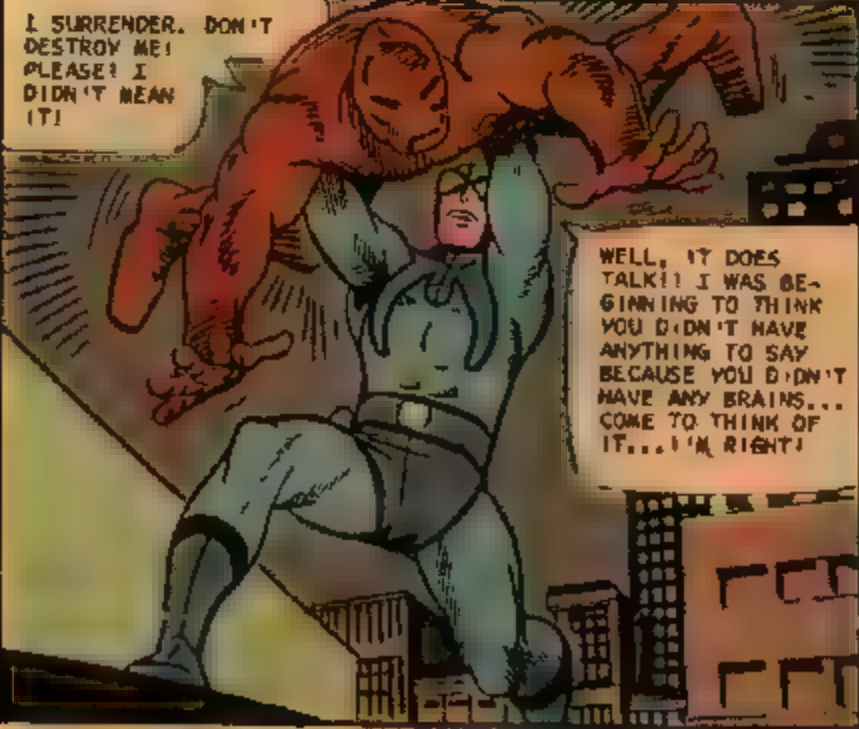
WHY FIGHT ON.. I WAS DOOMED
TO DEFEAT FROM THE START!
EVEN W TH POWERS. NOW
COULD I HOPE TO
ACHIEVE ANYTHING.
ET... IT'S AN
ILLUSION!



WHAI...NOW HE TAKES HIS REVENGE ON ME! NO, I COULD-
N'T HELP MYSELF! IT WASN'T MY FAULT...SOMETHING
MADE ME DO IT I HAD NO CONTROL!



I SURRENDER. DON'T
DESTROY ME!
PLEASE! I
DIDN'T MEAN
IT!



HEY, WHAT'S THE
DEAL? WHAT ARE
YOU UP TO??

RELAX, HIRED HELP! WE
JUST WANT TO TAKE A
GOOD LOOK AT A CREEP
WHO HIRES OUT AS A
GUARD!

I GOT HIS
GUN!



THAT SELF-MADE IDIOT!
HE'S REFUSED TO USE
HIS MIND FOR SO LONG
HE HAS NOTHING TO
CHECK HIS IMPULSES!

OKAY,
BUT
TAKE
THAT!

HEY! DON'T THEY KNOW
THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN
OPEN SEASON ON PEOPLE!

BECAUSE YOU DELIBER-
ATELY TURNED YOURSELF
INTO A MENTAL CRIPPLE
... THAT DOESN'T EX-
CUSE YOUR
ACTIONS!

OWW!
WHAT YA
DO THAT
FOR?
I LL
KILL...

SINCE YOU WON'T THINK I'LL TELL
YOU! YOUR FEELINGS DON'T DE-
TERMINE ANYTHING! ESPECI-
ALLY THE LIFE OF A
HUMAN BEING

WHO ARE YOU
TO TELL ME...
OWW!

NOW WHERE DID
'OUR MAN' SLIP
AWAY TO?

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS
COSTUME! WHY DID I HAVE TO GET
MIXED UP IN THIS ANYWAY?

WE'VE GOT TO FIND
'OUR MAN' BEFORE
THE POLICE DO!

HEY, LOOK!
HIS COSTUME!

HOORAY HE
GOT AWAY

IT'S A MIRACLE I
DID! THE FORCES
THAT GOT ME MIXED
UP IN THIS MUST
HAVE TAKEN PITY
ON ME!

SO HE GOT AWAY
... BUT I DON'T
THINK ANYONE
WILL EVER SEE
HIM AGAIN!

I WOULD'N'T HAVE MISSED THIS NIGHT FOR ANYTHING!

I TOLD YOU I'D FIX YOU, SAGE! YOU'RE IN TROUBLE NOW, THANKS TO ME!



I GOT TWO SPONSORS TO DROP YOUR SHOW HERE IN HIB CITY. BEFORE I'M THROUGH, YOUR SHOW WILL BE THROWN OFF T.V. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT! DID YOU HEAR ME, SAGE! I SAID...



IF SPONSORS OR ANYONE ELSE LETS YOU DO THEIR THINKING FOR THEM, THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, NOT ME!

I'M GOING TO RUIN YOU, SAGE. YOU HEAR! I'LL GET YOU YET!



NEXT DAY IN THE LAB OF TED KORD.

TED, YOU MUST BE BLACK AND BLUE ALL OVER! I SAW THE FIGHT ON T.V. HOW COULD YOU STAND UP TO HIM THE WAY YOU DID!

YOU KNOW, TRACEY, I COULDN'T QUIT EVEN IF I WANTED TO, NO MATTER WHAT...ALL THROUGH THE FIGHT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND I SAW "THE UNCONQUERED!"



I WAS FIGHTING FOR EVERYTHING IT STOOD FOR...TO ME! FOR THE BEST IN A MAN WHATEVER IT IS. WHATEVER IT TOOK TO MAKE THAT STATUE...WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING WORTHWHILE! IT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY STRUGGLING TO SUCCEED! OUR MAN COULD ONLY HAVE WON IF I GAVE UP...ON WHAT THAT STATUE STANDS FOR, FOR WHAT IT MEANS TO ME!



WE'LL KEEP "OUR MAN'S" COSTUME HERE! SOMEDAY HE'LL RECLAIM IT. TILL THEN, WE'LL KEEP FAITH IN HIS CAUSE!

I'LL NEVER RECLAIM IT! BY HIMSELF, MAN IS TOO HELPLESS. UNLESS HE HAS SOME SUPERNATURAL POWERS LIKE THE ONES THE BLUE BEETLE HAS TO HELP HIM! EVERYONE ELSE IS LIKE "OUR MAN"...WE CAN ACHIEVE NOTHING! WE ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE BEFORE WE TRY!



YOU'RE CRAZY, LOU! YOU GOT TO BE A GENIUS OR LIKE THE BLUE BEETLE TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. GIVE UP LIKE ME AND HUCK! YOU'LL PASS ANYWAY!

NOT IF I GIVE UP, I'LL NEVER KNOW! THEY CAN BE DONE AND I KNOW I CAN DO THEM! I KNOW IT!



"PRISONER 2222."

To The Honorable John Macready,
Chairman,
State Parole Commission.

Dear Sir:

Because of the insistence of the Press I feel the time has come to issue a complete statement in regard to the application of Walter Freders, known as Prisoner 2222, for a parole. At the same time the Governor in studying the possibility of giving this man a complete pardon. The examining commission has authorized me to inform you that we feel it best that all facts be given to the public. We are well aware that most people will not believe the strange events involved in this case. We can understand this attitude because every member of the examining commission, including myself, were of the same opinion. Briefly: It just could not be! But since it is the best we can do is to live with the facts.

We need not discuss the crime of which Walter Freders was found guilty by a competent court and jury and sentenced to a term of not less than thirty years nor more than thirty five. At the time he entered the state prison his education had not passed beyond the sixth grade of elementary school. His I. Q., as tested by the prison psychologist was found to be 73. His physical condition was excellent. The task assigned him was to bail the bundles of scrap paper sent out of the prison.

On January 12, of this present year, at exactly five minutes after nine, he collapsed. He was taken to the prison hospital and was in a coma for three weeks. When he regained consciousness he at once demanded to know why he was in the hospital. Especially since he had an appointment at the State University with several members of the U.N. He informed us that he was Professor Robert Meli. I need not tell you that Professor Meli was the greatest linguist in this country with his specialty being the Far Eastern languages.

On January 12, of this present year, at exactly five minutes after nine, Professor Meli died of a heart attack. His sister, Mrs. Marie Donnelly, has testified that her brother repeatedly stated that should he die, he would bequeath his brilliant brain to somebody who needed a second chance at life. She has informed us that until the present event was brought to her attention, she always

thought this to be part of her brother's sly humor.

Mrs. Marie Donnelly spoke to Prisoner 2222 three times in our presence. She asked him questions of a intimate nature and he gave her the correct answers. She is convinced that her brother did exactly what he promised: "His brain is now in the body of Walter Freders. Dr. Mizu Akai had two long conversations with the prisoner in Japanese. Then he wrote a short note in Japanese which the prisoner read aloud and translated. Dr. Hu Wang, did the same in Mandarin. In addition he talked about the ancient Chinese classics with the prisoner. Eight other linguists then came and each was convinced that Walter Freders somehow was the greatest specialists in his field.

It is the "somehow" that bothered all of us. There is no satisfactory theory by which we can explain this situation. Can a man who knows he is about to die bequeath his brain to somebody else? And by the grant of gift, also give the recipient his identity? Professor Hans Gelber, the Anthropologist, has presented us with records showing that such a belief has been widespread in the past. And even now there are people who believe that they will come back after death in another identity. The following question has been raised: Can Prisoner 2222, Walter Freders, now with the identity of Professor Robert Meli, upon his death, transfer his brain? We do not know the answer.

We recommend that the parole be granted. Arrangements have been made for Walter Freders to do work in the field of linguists. We are willing to concede that it may be best that he change his name legally to Robert Meli. Mrs. Marie Donnelly suggested this to us and further added that she is willing to recognize him as her brother.

When information is given to the Press, we feel it best to have the various linguistic specialists present so that they may then demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that the identity of one man has "somehow" been given to another man. And that in view of this transference of identity, the state feels it best to release the man so concerned in this supernatural trans-

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Thomas Leroy,
Chairman, Examining Commission

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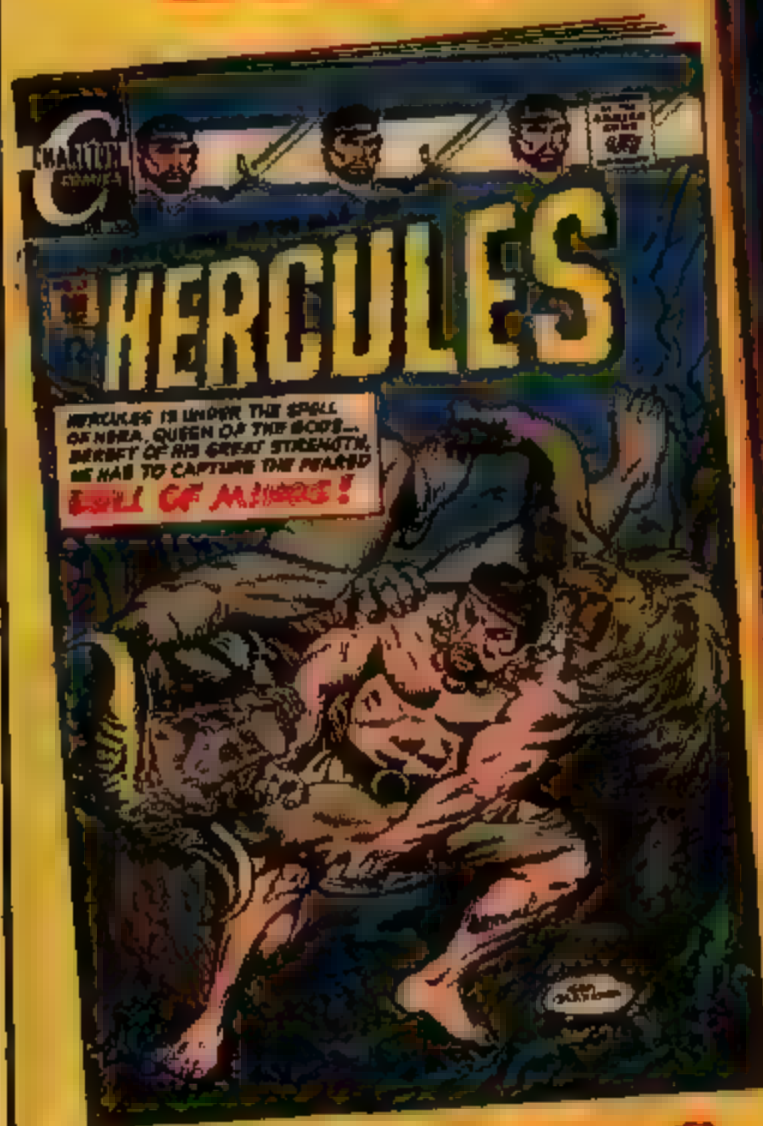
- | | | | |
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A
**STARTLING
 VIEW
 FROM
 THE
 GODS**



**DYNAMIC
 HERCULES**



**PUSHING
 HIGH IN THE
 ENDLESS.
 SKY TO UN-
 SUSPECTED
 DESTINY**

HIS SECRET KNOWN ONLY TO PROF. ROODR, VIC SAGE ASSUMES THE IDENTITY OF THE QUESTION TO HELP HIS FIGHT AGAINST INJUSTICE!

PLOT AND ART, STEVE DITRO
SCRIPT, B.C. BLANCKEN

THE QUESTION!

BORIS EBAR VISITS SYD STAR AT THE WORLD WIDE BROADCASTING CO.

THIS PAINTING IS A PRESENT FOR YOU, SYD! WHEN I SAW IT, I KNEW A MAN LIKE YOU WOULD LOVE TO HAVE IT... A MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS THE FINER POINTS OF CULTURE AND HUMANITY. I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE IT AS A TRUE MASTERPIECE AND CAN SEE ITS SYMBOLISM IS PURE GENIUS...

I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, BORIS! YES, I CAN SEE IT... IT REALLY IS ALL YOU SAY... IT'S VERY MOVING... VERY ENLIGHTENING... DEEP FEELING... AND... AND...

8-1254

YES, YOU UNDERSTAND! IT REPRESENTS MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN! THE REFUSAL OF MAN TO HELP HIS FELLOW MAN GET OUT OF THE GUTTER! THE WORLD WALKS BY! NOTICE THAT BRILLIANT STROKE... A CIGARETTE BUTT! IT SYMBOLIZES THAT MAN SPENDS HIS WEALTH ON HIS OWN COMFORTS RATHER THAN GIVE IT TO OTHERS. THE REAL ATTACHED CAN IS PURE GENIUS! IT PROVES THE REALITY, THE TRUTH OF IT ALL!

YES, THAT'S THE WAY I SEE IT TOO, BORIS! IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU... JUST LET ME KNOW!

THERE IS ONE THING, IT'S MORE OF A FAVOR TO YOU, IT'S ABOUT AN ANNOUNCER THAT IS A DISGRACE TO YOUR FINE REPUTATION!

OKAY, BUT I GOT TO SHOW THIS AROUND FIRST. NORA, LOOK AT THE MASTERPIECE I GOT FROM BORIS!

AND I'LL SHOW YOU ONE VIC GAVE ME! WE CAN COMPARE THEM!

THIS ONE PRESENTS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF MAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK, SYD... BORIS! I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW ME THAT? I DENOUNCED IT AS CHILDISH, LACING IN ANY AESTHETICS... IT'S AN INSULT TO MAN AND HUMANITY

IT INSULTS MAN? EXPLAIN IT!



IF YOU CAN'T FEEL IT, THEN YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND! YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN THE HUMAN HEART NOW COULD ANYONE FEEL ANYTHING BUT DISGUST ABOUT THAT... THAT TRASH!

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO BORIS, NORA. HE KNOWS! HIS REPUTATION AS AN ART CRITIC IS NOT TO BE QUESTIONED! WHAT DOES SAGE KNOW



YOU... YOU BOUGHT THAT PAINTING BECAUSE I DENOUNCED IT? YOU PUT HER UP TO THAT TO EMBARRASS ME? DIDN'T YOU?

YOU FLATTER YOURSELF? I DON'T BUY ANYTHING TO PLEASE OR DISPLEASE YOU OR ANYONE ELSE! I DECIDE THINGS FOR MYSELF!



SYD, SAGE HAS AN EVIL SOUL! YOU MUST GET RID OF HIM... HE'LL DESTROY ONE AS HUMANE AS YOU!

DON'T I KNOW IT! BUT TELL ME HOW I CAN DO IT. I TRIED EVERY WAY I COULD TO HAVE HIM FIRED!



LATER... AT FRANK'S APARTMENT!

THAT BLASTED PAINTING! WHY DID SAGE HAVE TO BRING IT INTO MY LIFE AGAIN! I WANTED TO BE THROUGH WITH IT FOREVER! NOW MY MIND WON'T STOP SEEING IT! WHY DID IT HAVE TO EXIST? WHY WON'T IT LEAVE ME ALONE!



IT KEEPS ACCUSING ME... IT MAKES ME THINK OF WHEN I FELT LIKE... NO! I MUST NOT THINK ABOUT THEM! BUT THE PAINTING KEEPS REMINDING ME... I'LL NEVER BE FREE OF IT... UNTIL IT IS DESTROYED! IT MUST BE DESTROYED... IT MUST!



SO, LATER IN A WEST SIDE ALLEY...

...AND WE GET THE OTHER HALF SECTIONS OF THE 500 BUCKS WHEN WE DO THE JOB, OKAY, WHERE DO WE DELIVER THE PAINTING TO YOU?

YOU DON'T! BURN IT! I WANT IT COMPLETELY DESTROYED! WHEN I HEAR IT HAS BEEN TAKEN I'LL MAIL YOU THE OTHER HALF OF THE MONEY! AND DON'T FAIL!



PRESENTLY, AT NORA'S APARTMENT!

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING, VICT? WHA? GET OUT... DON'T!

NO DAME ORDERS ME! COME ON... LET'S GET THAT PAINTING AND



TOO BAD I DIDN'T STAY WITH NORA A LITTLE LONGER, BUT I'M GLAD I FOLLOWED THESE TWO SUSPICIOUS GOONS UP FROM THE ALLEY AND WAS READY AS THE QUESTION!

HEY... WHO?? AHH!

WHY?? WHERE?? AHH!



GET HIM, BO!
I CAN'T HOLD...
AAH!

HE'S LIKE A
CRAZY MAN BUT
I'LL DROP HIM
FOR GOOD!

YOU'RE THE SCUM
THAT LIKES TO
HIT WOMEN!

I WON'T M S S
TH S T I M E...
I'LL... AANG!

BEAT IT, BO, WE GOT TO GET OUT
OF HERE, THIS GUY'S TOO WILD FOR
US

NORA'S OKAY! SHE'S COMING TO SHE
WAS JUST
KNOCKED OUT!
I BETTER
GET AFTER
THOSE TWO!

THEY SPLIT UP BUT
THIS ONE WILL DO
JUST FINE!

I NEED SOME AN-
SWERS AND YOU'LL
PROV DE THEM! YOU
TWO CAME FOR A
PAINTING... WHICH
ONE? WHO SENT YOU?

I'LL SMASH...
GGF! LET ME
GO! I'M NOT
TALKING AND
YOU
CAN'T
MAKE
ME

I'LL RELEASE THE GAS
THAT MAKES ME THE QUEST-
ION... IT WON'T AFFECT
MY APPEARANCE AND IT
WILL GIVE ME THE EFFECT
I WANT!

SUIT YOURSELF! THEN YOU
WILL NEVER TALK TO ANY
ONE
AGAIN
...!

HEY, WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA DO
TO ME? WHAT'S
TH S
STUFF??
WAIT!

TALK BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE
FOR YOU!

OKAY, IT... IT'S
A PAINTING OF A
GUY STANDING...
JAGGED ROCK ALL
AROUND, I DON'T
KNOW WHO HIRED
US, I SWEAR
DON'T!

OOH, HE'S SO SCARED
I COULDN'T HOLD ON.
BUT HE TOLD ME
ENOUGH TO FIGURE
OUT WHO'S BEHIND IT
...BORIS EBAR, NOW
I HAVE TO PROVE IT!

LET GO! I
GOTTA GET
OUTTA THIS...

LATER, AT THE LAB OF PROF. RODOR.

THAT'S MY IDEAL IF IT CAN BE DONE IT'LL FORCE BORIS' HAND. THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO WATCH HIS NEXT MOVE AND CATCH HIM RED-HANDED!

YES, VIC. IT SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEM



TH'S WON'T TAKE LONG! I GOT SOME GLASS TUBING YOU CAN USE AS A BLOW-GUN!

GOOD! I'LL TACK THESE UP AND GET THE SPRAY READY!



THIS SOLUTION WILL DRY IMMEDIATELY! ONCE YOU START THE REACTION, IT WILL BE INSTANTANEOUS. ALSO, COLORLESS AND ODORLESS. YOU HAVE THE PELLETS AND TUBING?

YES, I'M ALL SET!



OH, HOW I WISH I COULD SEE SAGE'S FACE WHEN HE LEARNS THE PAINTING'S GONE! BUT WHEN HELP SYD GET R'D OF SAGE, I'LL BE THERE TO HAVE MY LAST LAUGH... SOMEONE AT THE DOOR? MAYBE IT'S SYD!



WHAT... IT'S THE FIGURE FROM THE PAINTING? HOW??



NO ONE IN THE HALL... WHO?... WHY...??



WHA... IT'S GONE! BUT IT WAS THERE! I SWEAR IT WAS... WASN'T IT???



DID I REALLY SEE IT? THAT AC-CURSED PAINTING WON'T GIVE MY MIND ANY PEACE! WHY WON'T IT LEAVE ME ALONE??



AAIE!! OH, NO! I SEE IT AGAIN... BUT IT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T!!



HOW COULD IT BE HERE?? HOW COULD I SEE IT?? BUT I... I DID! I KNOW I DID!!



IT... IT'S GONE! BUT IT WAS THERE! THIS IS ME IT WAS...



THAT PAINTING WON'T GIVE ME ANY PEACE OF MIND! IT WON'T LET ME ESCAPE! IT KNOWS I BETRAYED IT!! ...AND I STILL AM...



I JOINED THOSE WHO CLAIM THIS IS A WORLD WE NEVER MADE! THAT WE CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S NOT OUR FAULT...WE'RE INNOCENT! BUT THAT CURSED PAINTING KEEPS ASKING WHY? WHY DIDN'T I?? SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP GIVING THE WORLD SHAPE AND DIRECTION! YET, I TOOK NO PART IN IT. I LET OTHERS DO AS THEY WISH AND I HATE WHAT THEY MADE FOR ME. I NEVER QUESTIONED...OR JUDGED WHAT WAS RIGHT...I ACCEPTED WHAT OTHERS SAID WAS RIGHT!



STOP! STOP ACCUSING ME!! I COULDN'T HELP IT! I TRIED AND FAILED! I HAD TO GIVE IN... WHAT ELSE COULD I DO??



HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

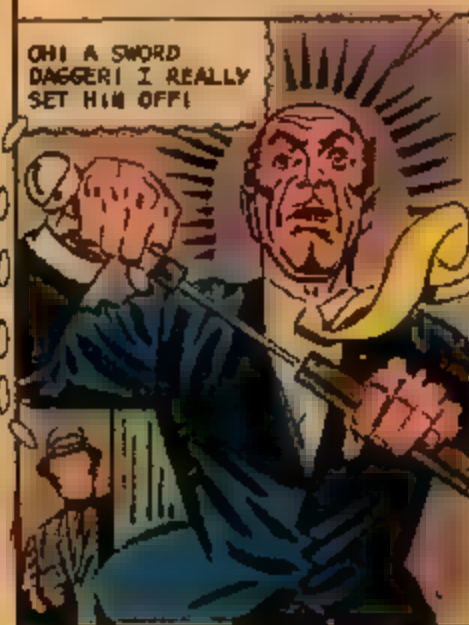
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S TOO DIFFICULT...WHY MUST I BE THE ONE?!



GONE. BUT IT WILL BE BACK! AS LONG AS THAT PAINTING EXISTS IT WILL REMIND ME OF WHAT I LET MYSELF BECOME!



I CAN'T WAIT! I MUST DESTROY THAT PAINTING MYSELF! ONLY THEN WILL I FIND PEACE!!



HEY, LOOK, WHAT'S THAT? AFTER HIM!

OH, OH! I SHOULD HAVE CHANGED TO VIC SAGE INSIDE!



I CAN'T LOSE THEM SO THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SHAKE THEM OFF THE QUESTION... MAKE HIM DIS-APPEAR!



THEY'LL HAVE NO INTEREST IN JUST VIC SAGE!



WHA...HEY, DID YOU SEE...

YEAH...A GUY WITH NO FACE, HE WENT OUT THE WINDOW!



BOY HE MUST BE A HUMAN FLY TO TAKE THAT WAY OUT. WE'RE 20 STORIES UP!

THAT DELAY GAVE BORIS A HEAD START AND I CAN'T EVEN TAKE 7 ME TO CALL NORA!



WHERE'S THE PAINTING SAGE GAVE YOU? IT MUST BE DESTROYED!!

YOU WANT TO DESTROY MY PROPERTY?



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE! IT WON'T STOP ACCUSING ME! IT MUST BE DESTROYED! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL FIND PEACE PLEASE, WHERE IS IT?



I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE!

DESTROY IT I'LL PAY ANYTHING YOU ASK...JUST DESTROY IT NOW! PLEASE, FOR MY SAKE!

I WON'T DESTROY THIS ART TO SATISFY YOUR EMOTIONAL EXERCISES!



ALL CLEAR! COME ON OR WE'LL NEVER GET THE REST OF THE DOUGH!

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO COMING BACK! I'M STILL SHAKING FROM THAT GUY!



OH, OH I BETTER TAKE THEM ON BEFORE THEY GET TO NORA'S ROOM AND JOIN BORIS. BORIS COULD BE TROUBLE ENOUGH BY HIMSELF!



THEY MIGHT NOT BE AFRAID OF JUST ANOTHER MAN, BUT...



THE QUESTION IS THE LAST PERSON THEY'D EXPECT OR WANT TO SEE AGAIN!



SOMEONE IS...
OH, NO! PLEASE
DON'T!

HEY, WHAT THE
...!

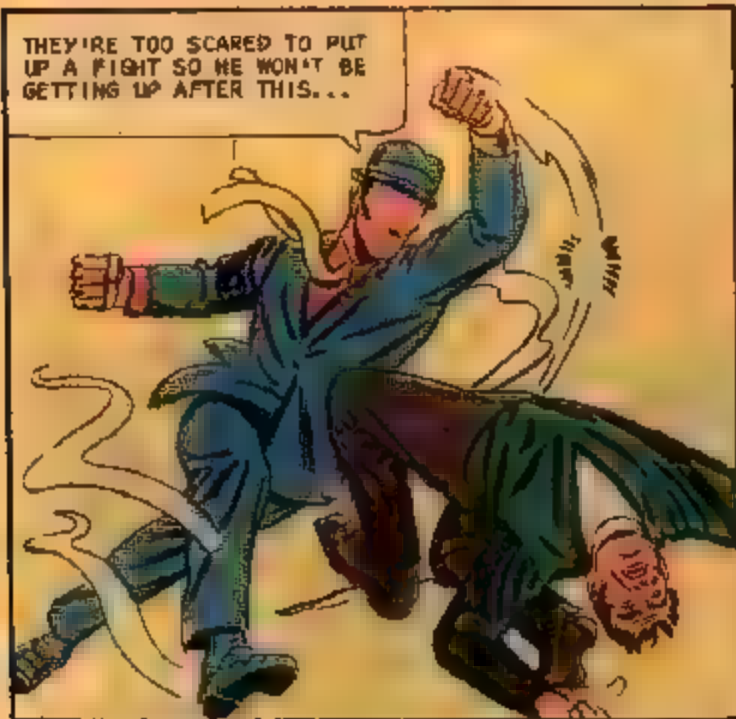


STAY BACK! HE
CAME AFTER ME
AGAIN...AAH!

YOU MEAN YOU
WEREN'T LYING,
HE DID...AAH!



THEY'RE TOO SCARED TO PUT
UP A FIGHT SO HE WON'T BE
GETTING UP AFTER THIS...



AND YOU'LL ALSO
STAY DOWN!



I DIDN'T
LOSE MUCH
TIME! IT
WILL BE
BETTER IF
BORIS
FACES VIC
SAGE IN
THE SHOW-
DOWN!



...AND IF HE'S DONE ANYTHING TO
NORA OR THE PAINTING!



PLEASE...
DON'T FORCE
ME! DON'T
MAKE ME DO
IT! I'LL
PAY YOU...
BUT DESTROY
IT

I'M NOT A HIRED AC-
COMPLICE TO ANY
CRIME! ANY FORCE WILL
START FROM YOU!...
YOU WANT THE PAINTING
DESTROYED...YOU,
ALONE WILL HAVE TO DO
IT... IF YOU CAN!



WELL, BORIS, IT'S UP TO YOU! YOUR TERROR BROUGHT YOU HERE...WHAT YOU CAN'T BEAR TO FACE IS WITHIN YOUR REACH TO DESTROY! WHAT STOPS YOU?... THE FIGURE ON THE CANVAS!

SHUT UP! DON'T TRY TO INTERFERE!

I'LL SHOW YOU...STOP! STOP STARING...STOP ACCUSING ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BETRAY YOU!

I TRIED TO BE LIKE YOU...I TRIED!

YOU EXPECT TOO MUCH OF ME...I'M ONLY HUMAN!

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME LIE TO MYSELF? WHY DO YOU KEEP MAKING ME SEE WHAT I LET MYSELF BECOME... STOP IT! I MUST DESTROY YOU... TO DESTROY THE PROOF OF WHAT I ONCE WANTED TO BE!

WHY COVER YOUR EYES NOW, BORIS? YOU BLINDED YOURSELF A LONG TIME AGO! YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH LIFE REFUSING TO SEE...REFUSING TO KNOW! YOU ACT NOW PHYSICALLY AS YOU DID THEN, MENTALLY!

NOW I'LL FIND PEACE...WHAT?

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!...I DIDN'T MEAN IT!...FORGIVE ME!

THIS IS WHERE THE RUCKUS IS OH! VIC SAGE! WE GOT TWO OUTS DE... I GUESS YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL

THAT ROTTEN SAGE! HE'S GOING TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT ME AND BORIS! NO MATTER WHERE I GO I'LL HAVE PEOPLE WHISPERING ABOUT ME...HATING ME

HE...HE DIDN'T EVEN MENTION EBAR? HE'S MAKING ME SWEAT TILL THE TRIAL...THAT DEVIL! I KNOW HIM, HE WANTS TO DISGRACE ME SO MY FATHER WILL PICK HIM INSTEAD OF ME TO TAKE OVER! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM, SOMEHOW!

THAT'S IT, NORA. THE REST OF THE EVENING IS OURS!

THE END

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Name of Initials

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HIS and HERS

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plus 25¢ ea. for Postage and Shipping

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ZONE

STATE

**I wanted
to be
an
artist!**



BOY, I WISH I
COULD PAINT
LIKE
THAT!

BILL, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN LEARNING ART, SEND
FOR THIS ART TALENT
TEST- IT'S HOW I GOT
STARTED!



**I MAILED IN FOR THE ART TALENT TEST
AND TOOK IT RIGHT IN MY OWN ROOM**



HEY! THIS TALENT
TEST IS FUN!
I CAN'T MISS
I BET!

LATER—



WHY SON, THESE
DRAWINGS OF YOURS
ARE REALLY GOOD!

**SUCCESS!!
I STARTED
MAKING
MONEY AS
AN ARTIST
EVEN BEFORE
I'D FINISHED
ALL THE
LESSONS!**



HMM THE NEW MAN IS
SHOWING GREAT PROMISE.
LET ME KNOW HOW HE GETS
ALONG!

IF YOU THINK YOU'D
LIKE A CAREER IN
COMMERCIAL ART
CLIP THIS COUPON
RIGHT NOW!



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Please send me your Talent Test without cost or obligation.

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**Inside and out...in double quick time
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says Ben Rebhun

whom experts called today's

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Thousands of boys and men the world over have found that my tested and proved methods can quickly, easily shape up their bodies into the lean, sleek, hard-as-a-rock condition demanded of America's spacemen. They're ready and able to do things in a big way—with the same kind of long-lasting stamina, the same tiger-quick response that astronauts need to stand up under the grueling demands of our space program.

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I stand ready to show you a money back basis—that no matter how flabby or puny you are, I can do the same for you right in your own home, as I have for thousands of others like you. Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be. MY TIME TESTED METHODS RE-BUILD YOU

WHICH OF MY 101,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

**I GAINED 60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY MIGHTY
MUSCLES**

BEFORE
Mailing
Coupon
I was a
135 lb
skinny
weakling



say JOHN BELL
I added 7 inches to MY
CHEST, 3 1/4 INCHES to
EACH ARM, No. Fat.
You don't have to be a
chicken-sheered skinny
weakling like I was only
a few weeks ago



"I LOST 30 LBS.

**of dangerous
UGLY FAT
4 inches off my WAIST!"**

**say
Felix Mendon**



**Which of these 3
ME'S is YOU?**

"That 220 lb. FAT-
BOY was ME a few
weeks ago." Look at
him NOW! Gave
him MIGHTY
MUSCLES, added
7 inches to his
CHEST, 3 inches on
each arm! No! I
don't care how fat
and flabby you are. All I want is min-
utes a day in your home to make you
over by the same method.

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Jam-full with 120 PHOTOS of STRONG
MEN and CHAMPIONS once WEAKER
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of flabby fat. ☐ I want to add inches of muscle to
my ☐ arms ☐ chest ☐ shoulders ☐ powerful legs
☐ slim waist ☐ I want to become a winning athlete
☐ I want new pep.

Let me know
how to get
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\$100 worth
of Sports
Self-defense
Strong-men
Stories
Courses
Assorted

Name..... Age.....
Address.....
City..... State..... Zip.....



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Address _____

City _____

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